

IN THE CLAIMS

Would the Office kindly enter the amended claims as follows:

1.(currently amended) A soffit structure comprising:

a sheet member having an upper surface and a bottom surface wherein said upper surface is designed to lie against a structural member of a building and the bottom surface is facing exteriorly of the building;

a plurality of channels formed is in said sheet member, said channels extending inwardly from said bottom surface, at least one channel ~~having a pair of opposed side walls~~ being defined by first and second side walls and a bottom wall, each of said side walls and bottom wall being straight and planar, each of said side walls being angled so as to form an acute angle with said upper surface of said sheet member, said at least one channel having a plurality of apertures formed in at least one of said side walls.

2.(currently amended) The soffit structure of Claim 1 ~~wherein each of said channels has a pair of opposed side walls,~~ each of said channels ~~having~~ has apertures formed in at least one of said side walls.

3.(original) The soffit structure of Claim 2 wherein all of said side walls have apertures formed therein.

4.(currently amended) The soffit structure of Claim 1 wherein ~~said at least one channel has a generally U-shaped configuration with a base portion extending between said side walls,~~ each of said side walls ~~extending inwardly and rearwardly~~ to form an angle of between 75° and 88° with respect to said upper surface.

5.(canceled)

6.(canceled)

7.(original) The soffit structure of Claim 1 wherein said sheet member is formed of a metallic material.

8.(original) The soffit structure of Claim 3 wherein said metallic material is aluminum.

9.(currently amended) The soffit structure of claim [[5]] 4 wherein said channels extend transversely of said sheet member.